

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 685

Introduced by Assembly Member Eng

February 17, 2011

An act to add Section 106.3 to the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 685, as amended, Eng. State water policy.

Existing law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water.

This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family. The bill would require all relevant state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, *the* State Water Resources Control Board, and *the* State Department of Public Health, to ~~employ all reasonable means to implement this state policy. Those state agencies would be required to revise, adopt, or establish policies, regulations, and grant criteria to further this state policy, to the extent that those actions do not affect eligibility for federal funds.~~ *consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 106.3 is added to the Water Code, to read:

106.3. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family.

(b) All relevant state agencies, including the department, the state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall ~~employ all reasonable means to implement this state policy. Those state agencies shall revise, adopt, or establish policies, regulations, and grant criteria to further this state policy, including establishing affordability criteria as appropriate, to the extent that those actions do not affect eligibility for federal funds.~~ *consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria.*

(c) This section does not expand any obligation of the state to provide water or to require the expenditure of additional resources to develop water infrastructure beyond the obligations that may exist pursuant to subdivision (b).

(d) This section shall apply to water supplies for individuals and not for new development.

(e) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the rights or responsibilities of any public water system.